

EPA raps waste control program

PORTLAND (UPI) — Oregon's program to control hazardous wastes "falls significantly short" of federal standards, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regional administrator has warned in a stern letter to state officials.

Ernest B. Barnes said the EPA may refuse to authorize Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality to operate the program under federal supervision unless improvements are made. In a letter to DEQ Director William Young made public Wednesday, Barnes said the state's program lacked certain and timely enforcement of hazardous waste rules.

Barnes said Oregon officials appeared to lack concern for needed testing of ground water contamination around hazardous waste sites. She also accused the DEQ of exercising little regional control over the activities of regional inspectors.

"Our concern is not with criticisms were based on faulty insufficient legal authority, but rather with a lack of commitment to impose specific requirements on hazardous waste handlers and/or

to enforce those requirements in a timely and consistent manner," Barnes wrote.

"None of their concerns is a surprise to us," Young said Wednesday before a meeting scheduled today with Barnes and other EPA officials. "We did not pretend the program was the precise equivalent of the federal program.

Richard Reiter, supervisor of the DEQ's hazardous waste program, called Barnes' letter "unfortunate," and said much of the criticism was based on a philosophical difference on how to enforce environmental laws.

"I think they are wrong because I think we have a good program," Reiter said. "Our philosophy is different. Oregon has historically had an attitude of voluntary compliance. You work with people, train them, and as a last resort, you take enforcement action if all else fails."

Reiter said that other EPA

information and that many of the problems cited in the letter already have been corrected.

Barnes listed eight hazardous waste storage sites in Oregon where she said DEQ officials failed to require regular monitoring of ground water to determine if hazardous chemicals were migrating into shallow ground water reserves.

Reiter said monitoring wells already had been installed at four of the sites and regular reports were being received from two of the sites, but EPA officials had not asked for the data.

Barnes also said the DEQ lacked enforcement standards that would result in a specific fine or other penalty for a specific violation of the waste rules.

Federal rules for hazardous waste control took effect in May 1981, allowing states to take over enforcement if their programs were judged equivalent to the federal ones.

Since July 1981, the DEQ has

handled the hazardous waste program under an interim agreement. State officials plan to apply for permanent authority to run the program next June after adopting new rules Reiter said would be as strict as the federal ones.

Suspect arraigned

MEDFORD (UPI) — A Central Point man accused of kidnapping another man he believed stole his marijuana crop has been arraigned on charges of first-degree kidnap and manufacture of a controlled substance.

Preble Henry Dizick, 35, was arraigned Wednesday in Jackson County Circuit Court.

Dizick was arrested Tuesday by Central Point Police on two Jackson County Circuit Court warrants. A Jackson County grand jury issued a secret indictment against Dizick last Thursday.

Dizick was booked into the Jackson County Jail in lieu of \$115,000 bail.

The charges were handed down after a man complained that on Aug. 19 he was held for 24 hours in

Innocent plea made